

**From:** [Chris DeMars](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** \*Strong support\* for proposed homelessness plan!  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 25, 2022 5:44:45 PM

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City of Portland Leadership,

I'm writing to express my strong support for the Mayor's proposed plan to address Portland's dire homeless crisis.

**Please end camping now!!!**

It is time to end dangerous, inhumane and illegal camping in public areas. Please support the proposed resolutions (899-903) to restore safety and clean up our city!

I have travelled to dozens of cities across the country over the past year, and NONE OF THEM has the homeless crisis Portland is experiencing. The last two years, I've seen the city I love become unlivable in many areas for housed and houseless alike. If left unchecked, the continued increases in camping throughout the city will absolutely decimate the economic core of Portland, which will result in fewer tax dollars and, eventually, adversely affect EVERYTHING that makes a city work, from social services to schools.

**\*\*We must find a better solution for the houseless than camping on the streets, which is inhumane for them, and is making our city unlivable\*\***

Please do not delay enforcement of existing no-camping laws, and instead create safe camping areas with access to services, more emergency shelters, more housing, and cleaner, clearer sidewalks.

Please use city funds now to start implementing this plan (instead of spending \$45M/year on the Joint Office of Homelessness Services, which does not seem to be at all effective).

Finally, please do not give Multnomah County or Metro a veto over city policies. It is my sincere hope that Multnomah County leadership will collaborate with the City on the proposed homelessness plan, but at a minimum, the City has the funds to get this plan started now.

Thank you,

Chris DeMars (she/her)  
SE Portland